

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advisory Committee Submits Proposed Congressional Redistricting Plan to Governor, Releases Map

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Tuesday, October 4, 2011)- Today, the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee (GRAC) submitted its recommended Congressional redistricting map to Governor Martin O'Malley, and released the recommended map to the public. "The map we are submitting today conforms with State and federal law and incorporates the 331 comments we received from the public during our 12 regional hearings around the State," said Secretary Jeanne Hitchcock, Chair of the Advisory Committee. "We have developed a plan that reflects the population shifts, demographics, and strengths of our State."

Under the proposed plan, which builds off of the existing districts created in 2002, more than 70% of Marylanders will remain in their current Congressional district. At the same time, the recommended map restructures the Congressional districts to reflect population changes over the past decade reflected in the Census. Also, in contrast to the common practice in other States, the proposed map does not draw any incumbent Congressman out of his or her district. Each district conforms to the ideal Congressional district adjusted population of 721,529 residents.

Governor O'Malley formed the GRAC on July 4, 2011 for the purpose of holding 12 public hearings, receiving public comment and drafting a recommended plan for the State's legislative and congressional redistricting. The Governor will consider the proposed congressional plan and will introduce his own plan to the Maryland General Assembly during its special session beginning on October 17, 2011. The plan is open for public comment through October 11, 2011. Comments may be sent by email (Redistricting2011@mdp.state.md.us), via hard-copy (Redistricting 2011; Maryland Department of Planning; 11th Floor; 301 W. Preston St.; Baltimore, MD 21201; ATTN: Linda Janey) or submitted on-line (<http://planning.maryland.gov/Redistricting/2010/publicCommentsCongDraft.shtml>).

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2010 Redistricting



Congressional Districts

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Highlights of the proposed map follow.

Congressional District 1

Congressional District 1 retains its character as an Eastern Shore, agricultural and rural district. The 9 Eastern Shore Counties are kept together, and the District no longer crosses the Chesapeake Bay into Anne Arundel County, and instead runs into rural portions of Carroll County.

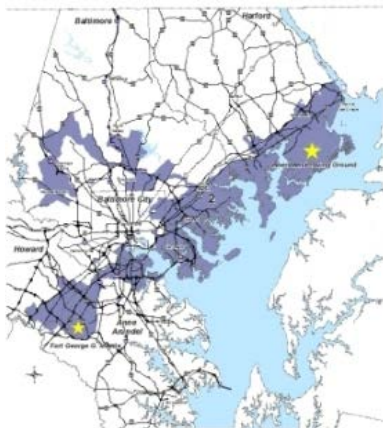


In the process of restructuring District 1, Harford County is no longer split into 3 Congressional Districts, a concern raised by residents of Harford County during the hearings.



Congressional District 2

Congressional District 2 retains its character of a BRAC corridor district, anchored on the Northeastern edge by Aberdeen Proving Grounds and the Chesapeake Bay shoreline of Harford County, through the Baltimore region, and anchored on the Southern edge by Ft. George G. Meade. This alignment allows for the residents most impacted by the Base Realignment and Closure process to elect a Congressman capable of focusing on this important issue.



Greater Washington, D.C. Region

Over the past decade, there has been a clear expansion of what has commonly been considered the "Washington suburbs," a trend that is reflected in the proposed map. This expansion has been spearheaded by the migration of nearly 40,000 Prince George's County residents to Charles County and the migration of over 43,000 Montgomery residents to Frederick County. In revising Districts 4, 5, 6 and 8, the Committee drew 2 districts that are based in Southern Maryland/Prince George's County, and two districts that are based in Montgomery County and the I-270 Corridor, into Western Maryland. Public testimony in these regions reflected a desire to have a Congressional map that better reflected patterns in this region – the growth in Southern Maryland from Prince George's County, and the growth of the suburbs along I-270. The proposed map eliminated the current overlap of districts in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties (District 8 into Prince George's and District 4 into Montgomery) to better capture what is occurring in the State.

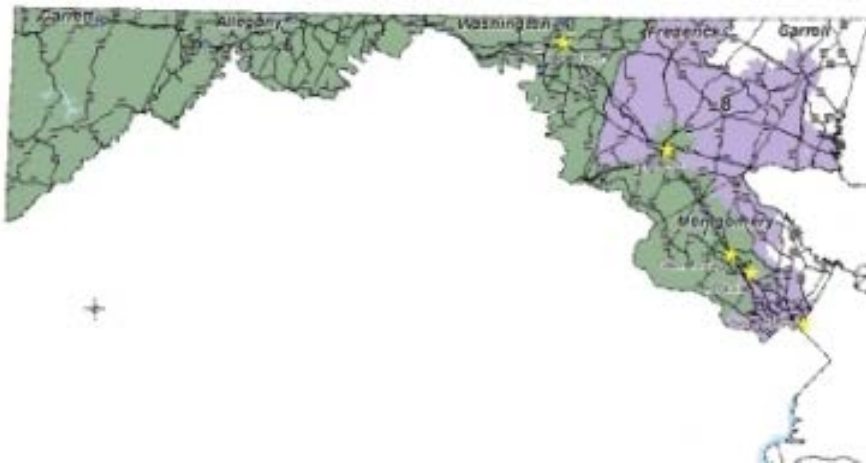
Congressional Districts 4 and 5

Congressional Districts 4 and 5 are comprised of the Southern Maryland Counties (St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert), Prince George's County, and portions of Anne Arundel County. In drawing these districts, the Committee was mindful of the current alignment of District 5, which encompasses vital federal facilities including the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center, Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the U. S. Census Bureau, USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, the National Archives II and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, the National Harbor waterfront development and the related research and economic development resources at the University of Maryland, College Park.

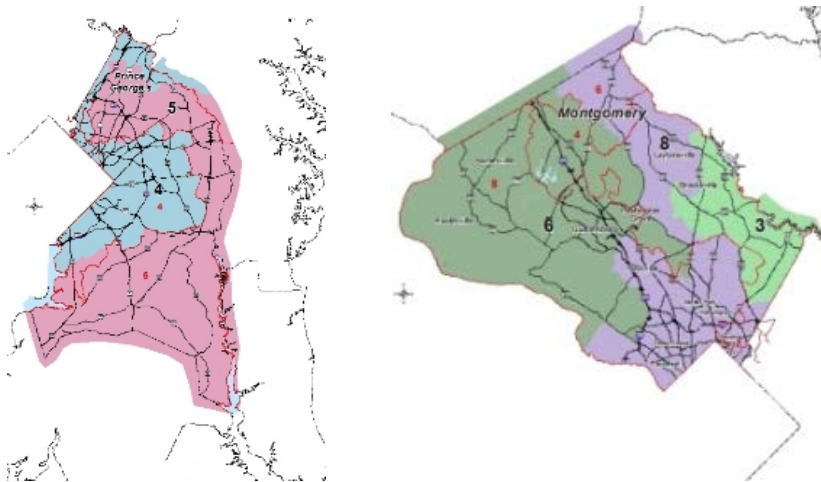


Congressional Districts 6 and 8

Congressional Districts 6 and 8 are drawn to reflect the North-South connections between Montgomery County, the I-270 Corridor, and western portions of the State. All three western Maryland counties, Washington, Allegany and Garrett, were kept together.



Consistent with public testimony, the proposed map reduces the number of Congressional Districts in Prince George's County from 3 to 2, and re-orientes the Montgomery County districts to reflect population trends



Baltimore Region

Congressional District 7

Congressional District 7 remains a district based in Baltimore City, with surrounding portions of Howard and Baltimore Counties that are primarily in the current 7th District. **Congressional District 3** remains a Central Maryland district that incorporates portions of the Baltimore and suburban Washington regions.

